

Study on risk factors of low – birth – weight infants

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Abstract

Back ground and objective: Birth weight less than 2500gr (as result of preterm delivery and/or intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR)) are a major cause of both neonatal and infant mortality rate.

Predominate cause of LBW in developed countries is preterm birth, whereas in developing countries is more often IUGR. Different risk factors, including demographic, behavioral and presentational and gestational factors are effective in LBW incidences which can reduce LBW and neonatal mortality rate by identification and control of the risk factors. The present study has been carried out with purpose of identification and decreasing the LBW rate in Ardabil.

Material & Method: In this case – control study all babies delivered in hospitals in Ardabil were investigated. Every neonate whose weight was less than 2500gr was taken as a case (n=470) and 482 neonates whose weight was more than 2500gr was taken as a control. Data gathering was done through questionnaires, interviewing the mothers and physical examination. The obtained data analyzed statistically through SPSS, as well as Chi-square, fisher tests and T test at the significant level $P<0/05$.

Results: In the present study, the percent of LBW amount to %6.4 in Ardabil hospitals. The results of our study shown that significantly relation existed between prematurity and gestational age<37wk, mother's age, mother's job and maternal weight, premature rupture of membranes (PROM), maternal diseases, multiple births, bleeding in during pregnancy, interval between pregnancies less than <2 years, prior history of low birth weight, use of drugs by mother in pregnancy, congenital malformation with LBW. In this study relation between parity, the use of

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Folic Acid, Fe, cigarette smoking and addiction of mother, living place (village or city), family marriage, health care and mother's education were not significant with LBW.

Conclusion: The LBW important risk factors in Ardabil hospitals were prematurity or gestational age < 37wk, multiple pregnancies, PROM, mother's age over 35 years, and maternal weight < 50kg, maternal diseases.

Key Words: Low birth weight infant, neonatal mortality rate, prematurity



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